

## **2013-123 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES—Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges—Community College Costs and Nonstate-Approved Policies**

The audit by the California State Auditor will provide independently developed and verified information related to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) and its accreditation of California Community Colleges (community colleges) for the period 2009 through 2013 and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. For a selection of three accredited community colleges, including two that the ACCJC has sanctioned, to the extent possible determine the following:
  - (a) Whether the ACCJC accreditation process was conducted consistent with applicable state laws and regulations and was applied consistently among colleges. Further, assess the extent to which ACCJC policies comply with applicable state requirements.
  - (b) Whether ACCJC accreditation policies changed and, if so, whether these changes had fiscal or other impacts.
  - (c) How the ACCJC's accreditation process incorporates measures of educational quality—for example student achievement—and whether the ACCJC's use of such measures is reasonable and effective.
  - (d) Whether the ACCJC's recommendations or requirements comply with applicable state laws and regulations.
  - (e) Whether the ACCJC has required any of the selected colleges to take action that was inconsistent with applicable laws or policies, including with respect to the colleges' governance structure.
  - (f) What changes, programs, or additional activities has each community college undertaken during the 2009 through 2013 period to address requirements imposed by ACCJC.
  - (g) The additional costs incurred by each of the community colleges in making changes or undertaking new or additional activities to comply with any requirements imposed by ACCJC.
3. To the extent possible, determine whether there are discernable trends in the number, percentage, and types of sanctions imposed on community colleges subject to adverse action by the ACCJC compared with actions taken by other accrediting organizations in the United States, and identify the factors contributing to any significant variations.

4. Identify any state or federal open-meeting laws, and any changes to those laws, that applied to ACCJC from 2009 through 2013 and whether it complied with any such laws during that period.
5. To the extent possible, describe ACCJC's policies, and any changes to those policies, in effect between 2009 and 2013 for retaining documents relating to community college accreditations.
6. To the extent possible, identify the number, contractor identity, purpose, and value of consultant contracts entered into by ACCJC, and the entities responsible for payment.
7. Identify and assess any other issues that are significant to the process for accrediting community colleges.